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County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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AGENDA: 5/2/00

April 25, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM ABOVE THE LINE

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Ann Pomper, Executive Director of Above the Line, a local nonprofit agency providing housing and services for homeless teens through a housing facility and an on-site classroom. As indicated by Ms. Pomper, Above the Line would like to increase the number of youth in residence at the house by moving the existing classroom, computer room and recreation room from the house to an existing 2,000 square foot service center also on the property. This shift will allow for a residential capacity of 18. The cost of the renovation work is \$300,000, and Above the Line is working to secure one-time capital grants and is requesting that the County of Santa Cruz provide \$50,000-\$75,000 in funding.

As the County grapples with meaningful ways to provide assistance to homeless individuals, Above the Line has provided a safe haven for homeless teens and is a model program for meeting this critical need. I believe that Above the Line is an outstanding collaborative effort with public and private agencies and that the Board should consider the possibility of providing one-time funding to assist in the renovations to their current facility. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct the County Administrative Officer to provide a report and recommendation to

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 25, 2000
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the Board, in connection with our budget hearings for fiscal year 2000-01, in response to the request from Above the Line for funding in the amount of \$50,000-\$75,000.

Sincerely,

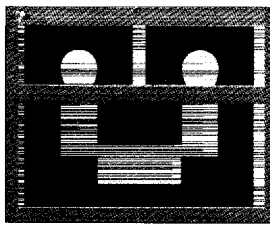
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mardi Wormhoudt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

-MARDI WORMHOUDT, Chair
Board of Supervisors

MW:ted
Attachment

cc: Above the Line
County Administrative Officer

2006A6



0179

Above the Line

April 21, 2000

Ho USING AND SERVICES for HOMELESS TEENS

Post Office Box 2822
Santa Cruz, CA 95063-2822
Telephone 831.459.8913
Facsimile 831.429.6185
E-mail kjc52@aol.com
<http://www.abovetheline.org>



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Affiliation Listed for
Identification Purposes Only

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Dear Supervisors,

I write to thank you for your support of Above the Line in serving homeless teens in Santa Cruz County, to tell you of our current status, and to ask for your consideration of funding assistance for a specific project.

Currently we are about to bring our twelfth resident into the Above the Line house and we have 16-day students in the classroom, four of whom are also residents. We have seen success in regular routines and increased harmony in the house, and youth showing significant progress toward personal, social and academic goals. While the youth often struggle with practiced self-defeating behaviors of drug use and unhealthy conflict, continual support and practice of alternative behaviors – mediation, conflict resolution, self-expression through art and music – are replacing old patterns. Our challenges are the tension between continually recognizing the individuality of each youth's needs and efficiently operating the house and all support services. Transportation and coordination of schedules is a daily challenge since all but two of the youth work and eight attend schools in the community.

The collaborations with County Redevelopment, Human Resources Agency, County Mental Health, County Office of Education, Youth Services, the William James Foundation, and Mercy Housing have been critical to the youth served through Above the Line. The Federal Home Loan Bank and its Affordable Housing Program has recognized Above the Line and its collaborative partners with the 1999 national award for community partnership. We thank and congratulate the County in receiving this award.

In order to increase the number of youth in residence at the house, an existing service center currently a 2,000 square foot shell, needs to be built out. A classroom, computer room, and recreation room currently in the house will be moved to the service center and the current use converted to bedrooms. This will increase residential capacity to 18. The projected cost for classroom, group and office space, and accessible bathrooms to be constructed is \$300,000. Plans for financing the project include one-time capital grants from the City of Santa Cruz,

Kresge Foundation and private giving. We ask that the County be a part of this capital campaign and request \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Please call if there are any questions regarding our current status or request for financing assistance for the service center. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,


Ann Pomper
Executive Director